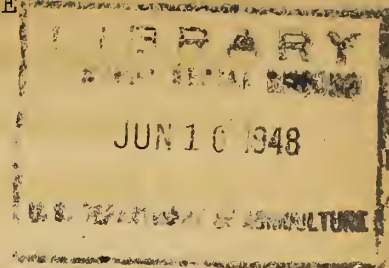


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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PRESS SERVICE

Picture Story No. 50
Release - Immediate



GRAIN BIN HOUSECLEANING
SPELLS DEATH FOR INSECTS

- - -

Insects in farm grain bins are tiny in size but tremendous in the damage they do. The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine figures that they make away with 1 out of every 20 bushels of farm-stored grain, as a national average, and in some States they double that toll. The place to start in getting such insects under control is at the empty grain bin, the entomologists advise. They point out that a thorough job of housecleaning bins and spraying them with DDT, before newly-harvested grain is put in them, will get rid of hold-over infestation and give new grain a good chance to escape damage.

With another wheat harvest in the offing, and in the face of urgent need for food and feed conservation, the Department of Agriculture is asking the cooperation of all grain farmers in a pre-harvest bin-cleaning campaign. The winter wheat harvest usually opens about the first week in June in Texas, about June 20 in Kansas, and in July in Nebraska.

The Federal entomologists report that insects claim an average of .5 percent of farm-stored grain each year, with losses in warmer States running higher. In Texas, for example, it has been estimated that farmers lose 1 of every 8 bushels of their stored grain to insects, and in Missouri the loss amounts to 1 of every 10 bushels.

Stored-grain insects claim 300,000,000 bushels of the Nation's annual production, worth well over \$600,000,000 at today's prices.

The Department points out to farmers that such losses can be reduced greatly by harvesting grain promptly when it is dry enough for safe storage and by storing it in weathertight bins that have been made insect-free by thorough cleaning and spraying. Once the grain has been stored it should be inspected frequently and fumigated if signs of infestation appear.

Information on ways to control insects in grain bins is available from all county agents and State entomologists. Two informational leaflets, "Save Farm Grain by Fumigation" and "Save Farm-Stored Grain from Insects," issued cooperatively by the Office for Food and Feed Conservation and the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, are available from the Department's Office of Information, Washington 25, D.C.

(OVER)

EDITORS AND WRITERS:

You may obtain 8x10 glossy prints of any of the pictures here shown free on request to Press Service, Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

1. The artist's conception of a magnified granary weevil.
2. Where weevils thrive and multiply.
3. Yellow meal worm larvae and other insects found under the basket shown in No. 2.

Frank Reyner, of Shawnee County, Kansas, gets his bin ready for the forthcoming harvest by:

4. Sweeping cobwebs and grain from the walls
5. Scooping up sweepings from the floor
6. Spraying with DDT.